
SALT-WATER
MITCHELL
SPINNING REEL
25c

How to get the MOST out of your

SALT-WATER MITCHELL SPINNING REEL

TO GET MORE PLEASURE FROM YOUR SALT-WATER MITCHELL SPINNING REEL—SOONER—READ THIS BOOKLET BEFORE USING YOUR REEL.

FROM THE OUTSET, getting the fullest measure of fishing fun from your Salt-Water MITCHELL is easy. As with any other new and unfamiliar bit of equipment, though, you will find it worth while to get acquainted with your reel *before* you try fishing with it.

HENCE THIS BOOKLET, which has been prepared for but one purpose—to help you get *out* of your reel all the pleasure that has been built into it.

FIRST . . . GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE CONTROLS AND ADJUSTMENTS OF YOUR SALT-WATER MITCHELL.

AS YOU CAN SEE from the two photographs and notes on the opposite page, the controls and adjustments of the reel are few and simple. Try them all. Get the feel of making each adjustment. Equally important—learn what *not* to attempt to adjust. Do not force any control or adjustment. If it is done *correctly*, it is done *easily*.

CAUTION: When mounting a spool onto its shaft, make certain that the drag adjustment is *not set up tightly*. To disregard these instructions might result in damage to parts of the reel.

200 yds #12 – DuPont.
8-24-64 = 200 " #12 – TRILENE
400
@ $2.00 + 2.00
Still not to lip of reel – must be up to lip.
George



Your Salt-Water MITCHELL was designed for comfort.. Note shape of reel-foot; also large, comfortable torpedo handle.

Spool *(Also see page 5).*

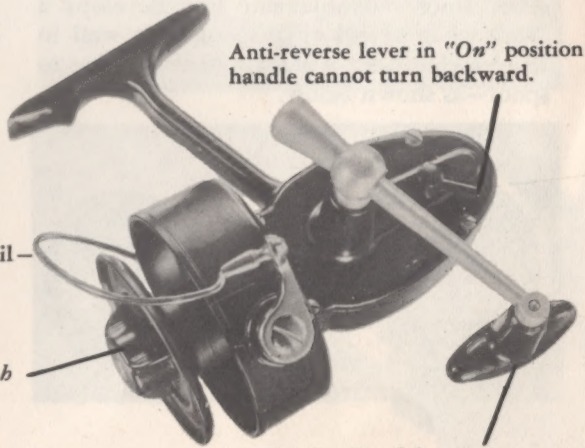
Lever controlling anti-reverse clutch—used when playing or netting fish, or when trolling. Shown here in *"Off"* position—handle turns forward or backward.

Folding handle, ready for use. Locks in position by screwing down tapered counter-weight.

Friction-free line guide.

This screw is *not* an adjustment. Do not tamper with it.

Heavy duty pick-up bail—in *"Retrieve"* position.



Anti-reverse lever in *"On"* position—handle cannot turn backward.

Heavy duty pick-up bail—in *"Cast"* position.

Positive drag adjustment—*stays* the way you set it and delivers *s-m-o-o-t-h* braking action.

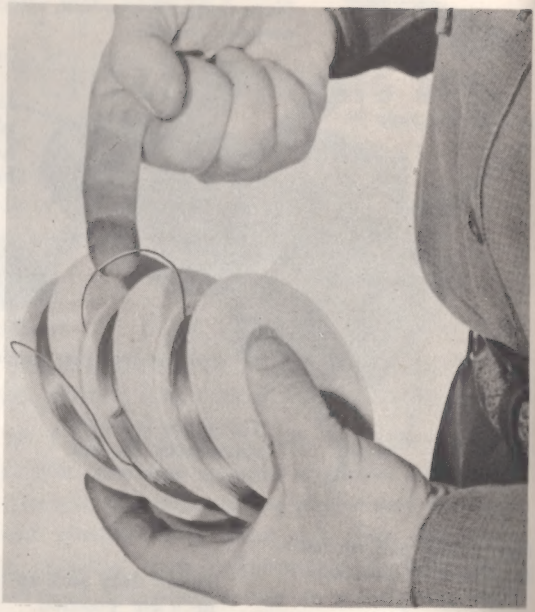
To remove spool, grasp spool by outer flange. Turn *entire spool*—counter-clockwise on right-hand model, clockwise on left-hand model. Drag adjustment is not disturbed.

Handle closed for storage—and for safe transport.

PUTTING LINE ON SPOOL

THIS IS PERHAPS one of the most controversial subjects whenever spin fishermen gather. One thing is clear, though. A monofilament line should not be "cranked onto" the spinning reel while unwinding by revolving the factory spool. The line should go onto the reel spool without a twist. Also, since monofilament line develops a "set" when stored on a spool, it is well to reverse this "set" when transferring line to spool—as shown below.



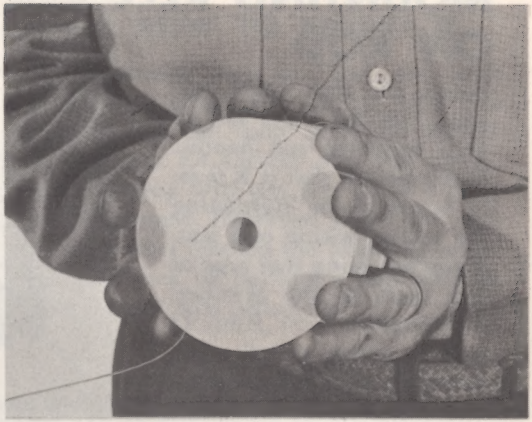


Platyl line is so spooled as to permit of transferring as many spools as you wish in one continuous operation—if you arrange the spools as shown above.

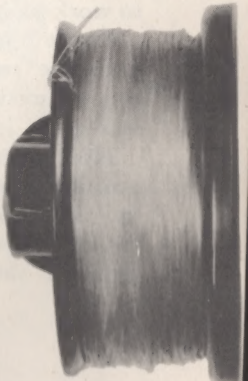
HERE IS ONE EASY WAY to effect the transfer. Arrange as many spools of *Platyl* as you want to transfer to your reel. With reel spool removed from reel, tie end of line to spool *(see page 39)*. With pick-up bail in *"Cast"* position *(see page 3)*, put spool on reel. Have an assistant hold the factory spools of line as shown at the right. Note that all eight fingers are applying well distributed tension on the line as it comes off the front spool. Now by simply cranking the reel, as in making a retrieve, the line will be transferred satisfactorily. Watch how line builds up on the spool. It should lay on evenly—and if it does not it is likely that not enough tension has been put on the line.

PLATYL LINE CAPACITIES

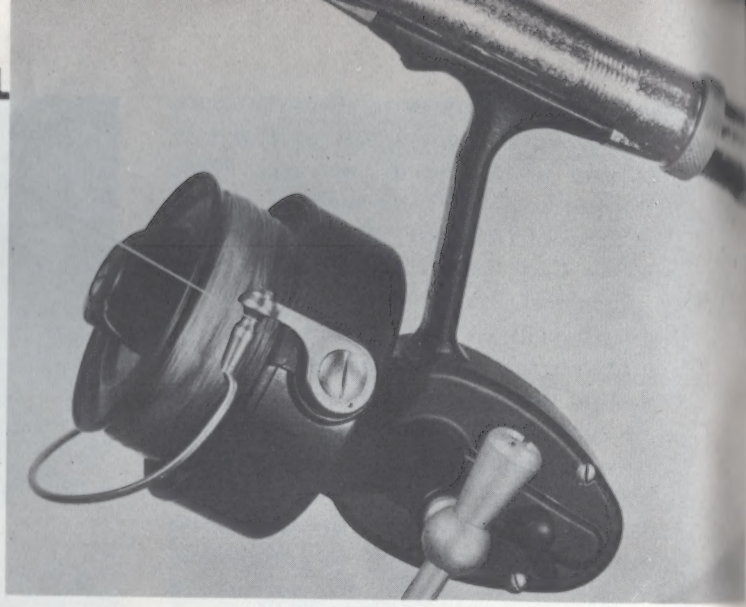
10-lb.	400 yards
12-lb.	350 yards
14-lb.	300 yards
17-lb.	250 yards



Here is a properly filled spool, with the line tied into the hole provided for that purpose. Incidentally, spare spools are the equivalent of spare reels – they are so easy to interchange.



MOUNTING REEL ON ROD



Fasten the reel—spool forward—on the under side of your spinning rod handle. Make certain that it is *firmly* fastened—by tightening the screw-locking reel seat, if you are using that type of rod, such as the Mitchell *Companion* Surf Rod. If you're using a rod with movable retaining rings, make certain these rings have a firm hold on the reel, so that the reel is not likely to work loose.

Check your rod guides. Are they in line with the reel? Is the ferrule where your rod tip section and butt section join firmly seated? Is it a good, tight fit?

Now throw anti-reverse lever into *"On"* position *(See page 3)*. With pick-up bail in *"Retrieve"* position *(See page 3)*, pass the end of your line *behind* the pick-up line guide, as shown here. If the drag is lightly set, it will be no problem to pull line out against the drag. Pass line through guides and tip-top, tie on lure, and you're ready for action! Whether or not you will use a wire leader will depend upon the kind of fish you'll be after. For practice, however, a "shocker" knot and heavy monofilament lead section are recommended *(See page 38)*.

THE FRICTION DRAG

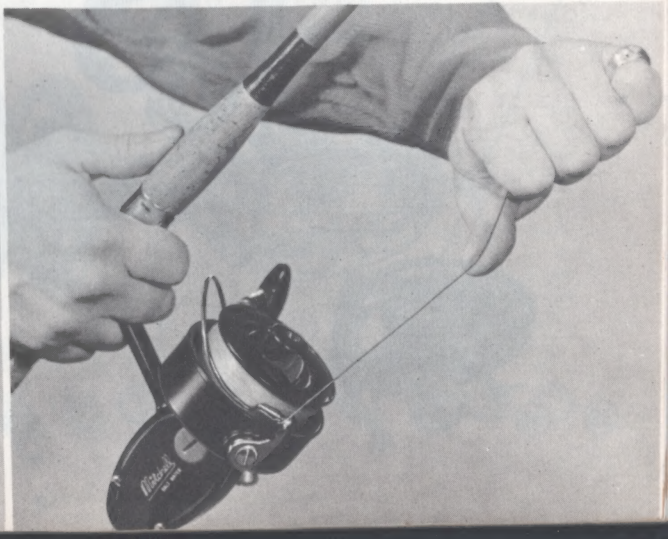
WHAT IT'S FOR . . .

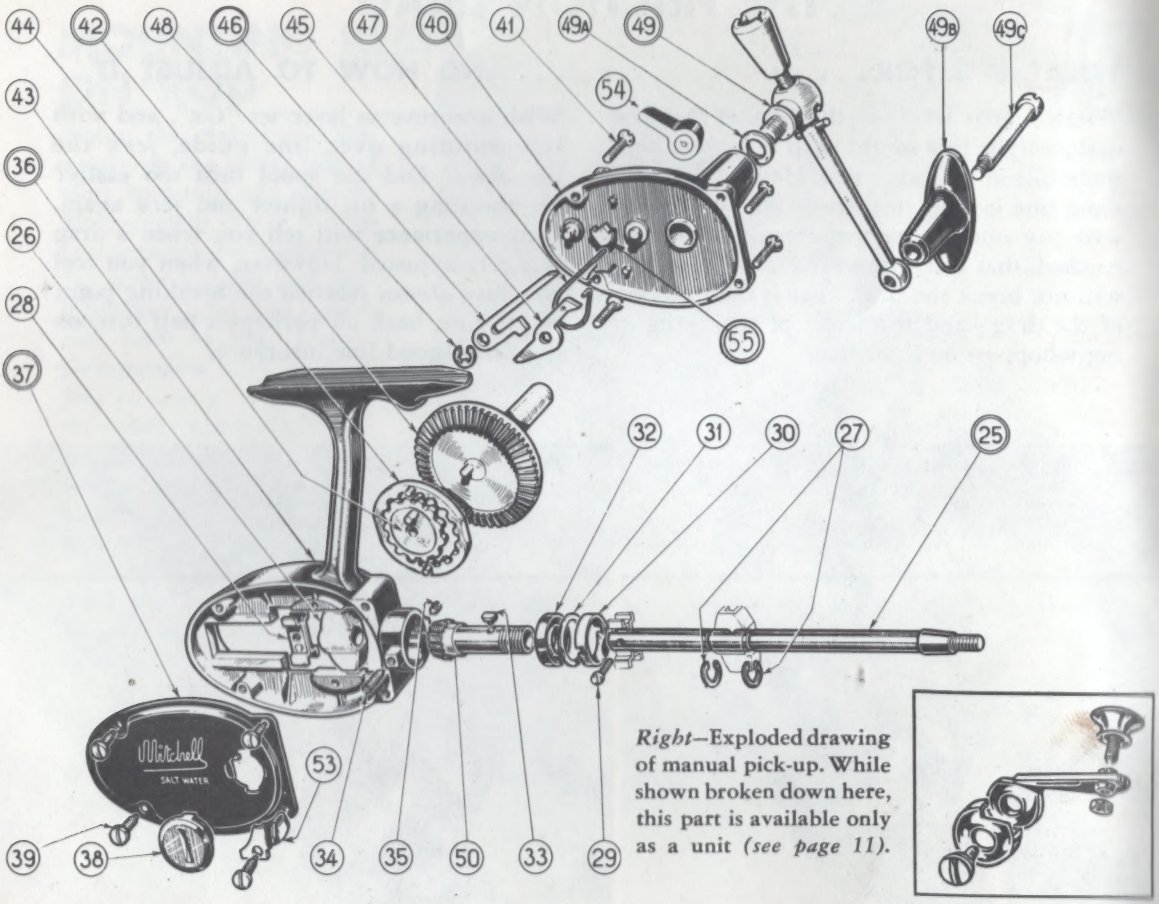
WHEN A FISH STRIKES—then makes that first dash, a light line might snap if it were held immobile at the other end. However, if that same line is held just firmly enough that it will pay out before the breaking point is reached, that fish will wear himself out, but will not break the line. That is the function of the drag—and the secret of taking fighting whoppers on light line.

. . . AND HOW TO ADJUST IT

With anti-reverse lever set *"On"*, and with line running over line guide, *jerk* the line *hard!* Did the spool turn too easily? Set the drag a bit tighter and jerk again. Only experience will tell you when a drag is nicely adjusted. However, when you feel you have *almost* reached the breaking point of the line, back off perhaps a half-turn on the drag—good line insurance!





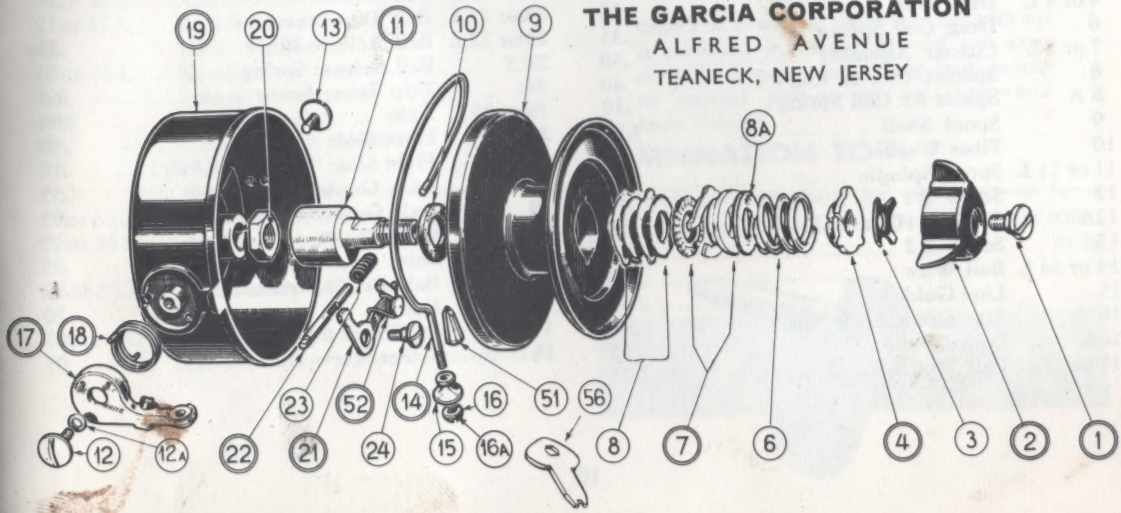


Right—Exploded drawing of manual pick-up. While shown broken down here, this part is available only as a unit *(see page 11)*.

SALT-WATER MITCHELL REEL

EXPLODED DRAWING

WE MAINTAIN COMPLETE service and repair facilities and stock of replacement parts for all MITCHELL Reels. Parts are available through your dealer or directly from us. In ordering parts, please give *both* part name and part number. Numbers enclosed in double circles on this drawing indicate parts that are different in left-hand and right-hand models. These parts are also indicated by an "L" following the part number on the parts list on pages 10 and 11. In these cases, please specify whether yours is a left-hand or right-hand model.



THE GARCIA CORPORATION
ALFRED AVENUE
TEANECK, NEW JERSEY

COMPLETE PARTS PRICE LIST

IMPORTANT

Where "L" follows part number, please specify whether for left-hand or right-hand model. (Right-hand model is shown throughout this manual—notice page 3 particularly. Left-hand model has crank on opposite side of reel.)

PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

No.	*Part*	*Price*
1 or 1 L	Drag Assembly Screw	.15
2 or 2 L	Drag Adjusting Knob	.30
3	Drag Star Spring	.05
4 or 4 L	Drag Nut	.30
6	Drag Coil Spring	.35
7 or 7 L	Coaster Assembly	.50
8	Spacers (Set of four)	.40
8 A	Spacer for Coil Spring	.10
9	Spool Shell	3.75
10	Fiber Washer	.05
11 or 11 L	Spool Spindle	1.25
12	Screw #1	.15
12A	Washer (Optional)	.10
13	Screw #2	.15
14 or 14 L	Bail Wire	2.00
15	Line Guide	2.50
16	Line Guide Lock Nut	.10
16A	Lock Washer	.05
17 or 17 L	Bail Mount	1.25
18 or 18 L	Bail Spring	.25
19 or 19 L	Rotating Head	4.50
20	Hex Nut	.10
21 or 21 L	Bail Trip Lever	.15
22 or 22 L	Bail Release Pin	.25
23	Bail Release Spring	.10
24	Trip Lever Screw	.05
25 or 25 L	Axle	2.00
26	Pivot Slide	.60
27	Pivot Slide "C" Locks (Pair)	.10
28	Axle Guide	.35
29	Axle Guide Screw	.05
30	Bushing	.15
31	Shim	.05
32	Ball Bearing Assembly	2.00
33	Key	.10
34	Set Screw #1	.05
35	Set Screw #2	05

No.	*Part*	*Price*
36 or 36 L	Housing	6.00
37 or 37 L	Name Plate	.75
38	Lubrication Port Cover	.25
39	Name Plate Screws (Set of four)	.40
40 or 40 L	Cover Plate	3.00
41	Cover Plate Screws (Set of four)	.40
42 or 42 L	Drive Gear	3.50
43	Planamatic Gear	.50
44	Planamatic Cam Ring	.75
45	Anti-Reverse Dog	.15
46 or 46 L	Anti-Reverse Cam Spring	.10
47 or 47 L	Anti-Reverse Spring	.05
48	Lock Washer	.05
49 or 49 L	Handle	2.50
49A	Spacer (Optional)	.05
49B	Handle Knob	.50
49C	Handle Knob Screw	.20
50	Pinion Gear	3.00
51	Bail Wire Cone	.50
52 or 52 L	Bail Trip Spring	.10
53 or 53 L	Anti-Inertia Brake	.50
54	Anti-Reverse Lever	.25
55 or 55 L	Anti-Reverse Pin	.15
56	Key for part 16	.25
802 or 802 L	Spool (complete with drag assembly) in plastic container	6.00



MANUAL PICK-UP

Quickly and easily converts regular bail pick-up Salt-Water MITCHELL Reel to manual pick-up. Simple to install. Complete instructions accompany each one. A screwdriver or the combination tool shown below is the only tool needed. Long wearing . . . smooth running. Price $2.75

Please specify whether for right- or left-hand model.

CARRY A SPARE. A spare manual pick-up is excellent insurance. Should you accidentally damage the pick-up bail, switch to manual pick-up on the spot—and keep fishing!

COMBINATION TOOL

The *only* tool necessary for servicing—or for a complete overhaul of your Salt-Water MITCHELL. Price $1.00



HOW TO KEEP YOUR REEL IN TOP SHAPE

HERE IS A COMPLETE PICTURE STORY telling every step to follow to clean, inspect, or overhaul your Salt-Water MITCHELL. Just a word of caution. *Most all cleaning agents can be dangerous.* Make certain that you follow the safety precautions that accompany whatever commercial agent you use—such as *Carbona.*

(A) Put anti-reverse lever in *"On"* position, then handle can be removed by turning it backward. A good grade of light lubricating oil applied in hollow of drive gear (where handle was removed) keeps drive gear housing lubricated.

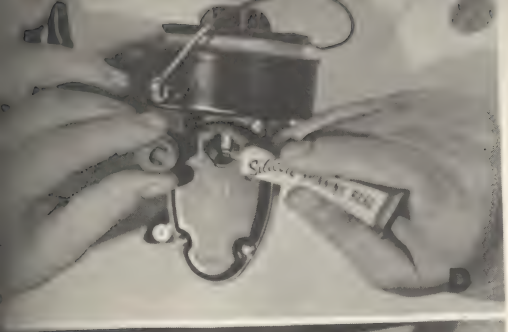
(B) All external moving parts should be oiled as a precaution against salt-water hazards—both bearing points of pick-up bail . . . torpedo handle shaft . . . anti-reverse lever.

(C) A quarter-turn of the red button on the nameplate side—and the gear assembly is open for quick and simple lubrication. This button has a coin slot.

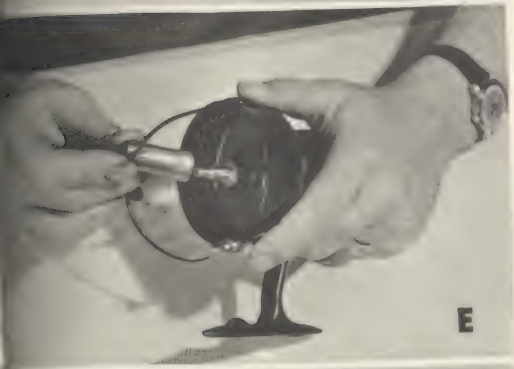








(D) Since the mechanism of your spinning reel never runs at high speed, but only on the retrieve, it is best to use a lubricant heavier than oil, such as *Silicote Spinning Reel Lube*, as shown here.



(E) The rotating head is removed by using the combination tool, described on page 11, to loosen the hex nut *(Part No. 20, page 9)*.



(F) To replace rotating head, line up key *(Part No. 33, page 8)* and keyway in hub of head; slide rotating head onto shaft, and replace hex nut, setting it securely with combination tool.

(G) For complete cleaning and lubricating—remove handle, four cover plate screws, cover plate, and gears. Wash each part with cleaning fluid (remember the word of caution on page 12) or unleaded gasoline. Apply a good gear lubricant, such as *Silicote Spinning Reel Lube*, to all moving parts inside reel, then reassemble.



(H) Planamatic cam ring *(Part No. 44)* is placed so lugs fit into the two holes provided in housing *(Part No. 36)*.



(J) With Planamatic cam ring firmly in place, drive gear *(Part No. 42)*, with Planamatic gear *(Part No. 43)* attached, is lined up and jiggled until all gear teeth mesh. *Note: Lug on Planamatic gear must fit into slot on pivot slide (Part No. 26).*





K

(K) To make certain mechanism is properly assembled, hold drive gear down firmly and turn it by its shaft. If everything is right, the entire mechanism should operate smoothly.



L

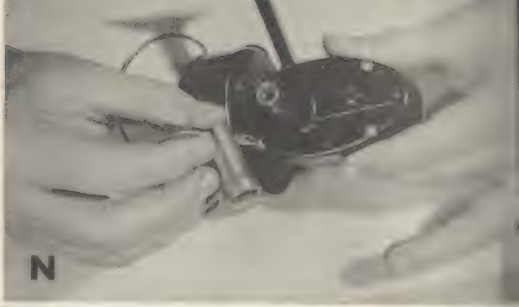
(L) Here is the proper assembly of the anti-reverse mechanism on the underside of the cover plate. Note particularly the position of the wire spring. Apply a drop of light oil to each of the three bearing points in this assembly *(Parts Nos. 46, 47, and 55).*



M

(M) To replace cover plate hold reel as shown, with drive gear shaft pointing upward. Then gently slide cover plate down on drive gear shaft, being careful not to disengage the gears.

(N) Replace four cover plate screws and reel handle, using the combination tool to tighten the four screws. Turn handle slowly to determine whether or not the assembly was properly done.



(O) Removing the pick-up bail was no problem. Neither is replacing it, if these instructions are followed. First remove bail wire *(Part No. 14)* from bail mount *(Part No. 17)* with combination tool. The bail wire will be re-installed as the final step in this operation.



(P) The coil spring *(Part No. 18)* has an "L" hook at either end—one longer than the other. The shorter of these hooks fits into the hole in the bail mount, while the longer hooks fits into the hole provided in the rotating head *(Part No. 19)*.





(Q) With spring in place, press bail mount firmly against rotating head to prevent spring from slipping out. Turn slowly up and over extended lug (bail stop) on rotating head, keeping constant pressure to counteract tension of spring.



(R) Here is the bail mount properly positioned. Do not relax your finger pressure.



(S) With bail mount held in position by two fingers, slightly spread to reveal the screw hole, the *shouldered* screw *(Part No. 12)* is inserted and tightened. Test the bail mount at this stage, to make certain it is working smoothly and freely. Then re-assemble the bail wire and bail mount, securing the other end of the bail wire to the opposite side of the rotating head with the screw provided *(Part No. 13)*.



NOW . . . shake hands with your MITCHELL!

YES . . . it's time to get acquainted with the *pleasure* your Salt-Water MITCHELL can provide.

If you have read carefully all that has gone before in this booklet, you realize that your MITCHELL is a true precision instrument — designed and built to deliver years of *s-m-o-o-t-h*, trouble-free service.

As with any precision instrument, though, your MITCHELL has a right to expect care and attention commensurate with its performance. Proper lubrication is of prime importance. Then, too, regularly checking the four cover plate screws *(Part No. 41)*, the three name plate screws *(Part No. 39)*, and the hex nut *(Part No. 20)*, to see that they are tight, will head off trouble before it happens. The Salt-Water MITCHELL combination tool (see page 11) has been designed to simplify this checking. No other tool is needed for *any* adjustment of the reel.

Now let's pick up where we left off on page 7. You have your reel on your rod, line threaded through the guides and tip-top, and a lure tied to the end of your line. While your Salt-Water MITCHELL, and the accompanying rod, line, and terminal tackle, are equally suitable for a variety of types of salt-water fishing, it is with spin casting that we will deal in detail here, since this is the one form of salt-water spinning that requires a new and different technique.

In making a cast, remember that the rod does the work. You simply control the power that has been built into the rod. Try this:

With the anti-reverse lever in *"On"* position, and with the drag set up tightly, forget about actually making a cast. Instead, with the pick-up bail in *"Retrieve"* position, assume the position shown on page 24. Then bring the rod tip back smartly, as on page 25. *Do not let the rod tip come to rest*, but bring it forward again, as on page 26. You'll feel the rod working. If the rod comes to rest on the back cast, it will require strength to bring it forward.

READY TO CAST
IN THREE EASY STEPS

The instructions given on these two pages are for the spin fisherman with the regular bail pick-up Salt-Water MITCHELL. The next two pages show the "ready to cast" procedure when using the Salt-Water MITCHELL with the manual pick-up attachment (see page 11).

IMPORTANT

Note that in casting with the bail pick-up Salt-Water MITCHELL it is not necessary to back off on the handle after picking up the line with the right index fingertip. The pick-up bail is moved into *"Cast"* position from left to right, and *not* from top to bottom.

One!

Bring lure to within about a foot of the rod tip-top. Bring the line guide portion of the pick-up bail to the top of the reel (nearest rod handle), and reach down alongside the line with the right index finger (A).



Two!

Pick up line with index finger of right hand. At the same time, with fingers and thumb of left hand, open pick-up bail by swinging it from left to right until it catches in *"Cast"* position *(B and C).*



Three!

That's all there is to it. You're ready to cast (C). No thought of "level-winding" or of backlashes. Your left hand has grasped the butt grip of your rod—and you're ready for page 24.



USING THE MANUAL

PICK-UP ATTACHMENT

For those who prefer the manual pick-up, there is an attachment designed specifically for the Salt-Water MITCHELL, and made by the maker of the reel. It is simple, rugged, and smooth-running. (See page 11.) It is easily attached—and here's how it's used.

One!

Bring lure to within about a foot of the rod tip-top. Bring the line roller to the top of the reel (nearest rod handle), and reach down alongside the line with the right index finger (A).





Two!

Pick up line with index finger of right hand. Back off on reel handle at the same time you pick up the line. The anti-reverse lever will be in *"Off"* position, to permit this manoeuver (B).

Three!

Continue backing off on the reel handle until the manual pick-up is entirely away from the line where it passes from the reel spool to your finger (C).

Cast!

That's all there is to it. You're ready to cast (D). No thought of "level-winding" or of backlashes. Your left hand has grasped the butt grip of your rod—and you're ready for page 24.





NOW—LET'S CAST!

The principle involved in surf spin casting is precisely the same as in casting with the older, revolving spool reel. The weight of the lure, combined with the momentum developed by the rod, draws the line out. However, the mechanics of casting are somewhat different—and the advantages of the surf spinning rig are many. For instance, no matter how light or how heavy the lure, and no matter how smooth or how erratic the cast, there is no chance of a backlash. This is so because the spool does not turn during the cast, so cannot overrun.

Then, too, since there is no inertia to be overcome in starting the spool turning, lighter lures can be used, and correspondingly light lines. This is particularly so if the "shocker knot" arrangement (page 38) is used.





These comments are made here to give you complete assurance that nothing should go wrong during your first few tentative casts. Here goes!

(A) Assume the position indicated here. Note that reel hangs between the second and third fingers of the right hand, pick-up bail is in *"Cast"* position, line is caught by right index finger, lure is hanging a foot, or thereabouts, below the tip-top, rod tip pointing at the target area, and you are completely relaxed.



(B) Bring the rod tip back smartly by lifting with the right hand while sharply propelling the butt away from your body with the left hand.

(C) *Timing is important here!* While the weight of the lure is still pulling the rod tip back—building up compression in the rod, start the forward casting motion by *snapping* the butt back toward your body, while at the same time straightening out your right arm.



The precise moment to release the line is learned only by practice. The first few casts will probably result in the lure going almost straight up, or in any event in a much higher trajectory than you want. This will be because you are releasing the line too soon—a throwback to the days when provision was made for starting the spool to turning.

When you have achieved the knack of releasing the line at the right time, practice following the flight of the lure with the rod tip. Keep the tip pointed at the lure, and you will reduce line friction to a minimum. The instant the lure hits the water the line should be picked up by the reel, ready for the retrieve.







HOW TO RETRIEVE LINE

(A) When using the bail pick-up model, line is picked up for the retrieve simply by starting to turn the handle in the regular forward direction. The bail automatically flips into *"Retrieve"* position, with the line in place.

(B-C-D) When using the reel equipped with the manual pick-up attachment—drop the right index finger against the edge of the spool. The line will catch on the finger. Pick up the line, pulling it back of the path of the manual pick-up roller. Turn the handle in the regular forward direction, and it will cause the roller to pick up the line.







LINE CONTROL

Line control while the lure is in flight is simple. Just play the tip of the right index finger on the line or edge of the spool. The amount of pressure you use will determine the amount of braking effect.

This same type of line control is useful when drifting a bait. Instead of picking up the line in *"Retrieve"* position, hold the line with the fingertip. It is then easy to pay out as much or as little line as you might want.

THE ANTI-REVERSE

The anti-reverse arrangement on your Salt-Water MITCHELL will save many a barked knuckle. When a fish strikes, quickly flip that control lever down into *"On"* position with your left thumb, while at the same time holding firmly to the reel handle. Once the anti-reverse is on, the handle need not be held. No matter what the antics of the fish, the handle will not turn backward, and the drag can be used with full effectiveness.





TROLLING

There is no particular advantage in using an ultra-light line for trolling. That line will be under constant tension as it is dragged through the water. And casting is no problem here. Switch to a spare spool loaded with somewhat heavier line. Now a couple of simple precautions. Troll with the anti-reverse *"On"*, and with as light a drag as possible. Have the line guide immediately under the rod handle *(see below)*, and not off to one side where it would set up unnecessary strain on guides.



Some comments on *Spinning*

MANY ANGLERS approach spinning on a strictly "no backlash" basis. True – since the spool does not revolve, but remains stationary during a cast – it is *impossible* to backlash a spinning reel. But there is much more to spinning than that – and every day spent over the water with your Salt-Water MITCHELL, and a well balanced outfit, will add to your fishing fun. And while *casting* with spinning tackle seems to claim the lion's share of attention from the angling fraternity, there are many other advantages, as you will soon learn. But let's examine some of the most asked questions on spinning and spinning tackle.

WHY HANG REEL BELOW ROD?

Because of the way the line comes off the reel when casting, it is necessary that the spool be some distance from the rod. To build the reel to fit on top of the rod, yet far enough away from the rod for proper casting, would not be satisfactory. The strain on the wrists would be considerable, particularly during the retrieve. The grip on the rod would necessarily be entirely behind the reel – a clumsy arrangement.

The way spinning reels are mounted permits them to hang in pendulum fashion. Note that the Salt-Water MITCHELL is so designed that it hangs *straight* down in normal "ready to cast" position. This permits casting hour after hour without hand or arm fatigue. Too, the line thus has ample room to run off the spool with no interference from the rod, and with a helping hand from gravity.

HOW ABOUT THAT LEFT HAND CRANK?

Left hand retrieving presents much less of a real problem than a mental one. By the time you have done the exercises outlined in this booklet for an hour or so, you will see that this is true, and that there are advantages far outweighing any disadvantages. Incidentally, the left-handed angler can enjoy all the benefits of salt-water spinning by using the left-hand model of the Salt-Water MITCHELL.

BUT THOSE LIGHT LINES?

You who have been accustomed to fishing with 27-, 36-, and even 45- and 54-pound test line are due for a real thrill! Remember, you have double insurance against line breakage. The friction drag starts slipping before the breaking point of the line is reached. Also, surf spinning rods are much lighter and whippier than the old, conventional surf rods, and consequently are much better shock absorbers. Using lighter test lines means more line on the reel, less load for the correspondingly lighter lures to carry in casting, and hence, longer casts. Now you can get away out there into spots

you could only dream about in your pre-spinning days!

One more word on light versus heavy lines. As an experiment, fasten the end of a line—any test—to a fixed scale. Now, with the line through the tip-top and guides of your spinning rod, and the spool of your reel set so that it will not slip, raise your rod tip. Using your right hand as a pivot and pressing down on the butt with your left hand, put everything you have into seeing just how many pounds you can register on that scale. You'll see why it is not necessary to use heavy lines.

WHAT IS "BALANCED TACKLE"?

"Balanced tackle" means simply a rod, reel, line, and lure that combine to work best *for you*. Line should be as light *as* possible, commensurate with the weight of the lure being used and the type of fish you might expect to encounter. The test described above (with the scale) will probably change some of your views on that score. Monofilament line is a single strand of synthetic material, resembling tennis racket strings or leader material. Particularly in lighter tests, monofilament is recommended over braided line for its smoother casting qualities. All monofilament lines are not alike—in construction or performance. Personal experience will provide the soundest basis for your ultimate choice. In keeping with our policy of presenting what we believe to be the very best in spinning equipment exclusively, we offer *Platyl* monofilament line. *Platyl* embodies the latest development in synthetic line material, and its popularity is increasing daily —as results from users are becoming known. Try *Platyl*. See for yourself why we are enthusiastic about it. Your dealer has it.

Choose your surf spinning rod with care. The design of the basic tip, the design and placement of guides and tip-top, the design and location of the reel seat—all these contribute much to the performance of your reel. Too much tip action—excessive vibration. Tip too soft over-all—will handle only relatively light lures. Tip too stiff over-all —will handle only heavier lures satisfactorily.

SALT-WATER SPINNING

. . . California Style

By Ed Neal — *San Francisco News*

Fifty-two different species of rockfish have been found in California coastal waters. Add to them salmon, striped bass, steelhead, halibut, and infinite other varieties of marine fish; then you have some idea of what awaits the surf and rock angler who fishes the 450-mile long Northern California coast from Monterey to the Oregon line.

What's more, equip that fisherman with a salt-water spinning outfit—and prospects are unlimited.

For an outfit, of course, start with the Mitchell salt-water reel and the *Mitchell Companion* surf rod. Spool on several hundred yards of 12- or 14-pound *Platyl*.

If your fishing primarily will be confined to beaches, stick with 12-pound test. If you are going to work the rocky inlets, too, you will want 14-pound, because of added wear and tear on the line.

A three-foot bait leader of at least 20- or 30-pound test is standard. Leaders take even more punishment than does the line. A three-ounce pyramid sinker should do, although surf conditions will dictate whether a heavier or lighter weight is needed.

Once again, if you plan to work the rocks, take a *Bull Durham* sack and fill it with sand to the estimated weight. If this improvised sinker fouls on the rocks a jerk will tear it and free your line without loss of any terminal gear.

Most striped bass anglers hereabouts use a pair of 8/0 hooks with half a sardine or whole anchovy as bait.



An Atlantic seaboard fisherman might ask about lures. The answer I like best is supplied by Leon Adams, California's leading striped bass authority. He puts it this way: "I have yet to find the ex-Atlantic striper fisherman who, upon arrival in California, has continued permanently using the artificial squids, spinners, eelskins, and plugs that he used at home."

Artificials are by no means shunned, however. I know one grizzled old salt who fishes the Monterey coastline with nothing more than a piece of red balloon impaled on a 5/0 hook. I've seen him take fish after fish with this rig. On occasion, fishing rocky inlets below San Francisco with a light spinning outfit, I've hooked quite a variety of smaller rockfish on metal spoons.

Trollers in upper San Francisco and San Pablo Bays have fine luck on jointed redhead plugs and large salt-water spoons. They pick up both stripers and salmon in the fall.

But, by and large, bait is relied upon by 95 percent of the surf and rock fishermen.

Let's assume you're completely outfitted. You're standing on a sandy beach near San Francisco and you want fish. Where do you start? First—study the breakers. That marks the deep spots—the holes. That's where you will find stripers and other fish lurking.

Sometimes it's close in; on other days the deep water may be far out beyond the reach of all but the best surf casters using standard surf tackle. That's where a spinning outfit gives such a big assist. You can easily reach those distant spots.

If you have the time, visit the beaches at low tide. Mentally note the formation of sand hills and valleys. The deep impressions in the sand will become "food pockets" during high water. You will find stripers hanging out there, waiting for clams, worms, freshly spawned crabs, and other foods to wash inside.

You'll have your best luck fishing the last half of the incoming tide to high slack water.

Surf fishermen who have designs on stripers are limited to about 100 miles of

coastline in California. It ranges from Pescadero, 37 miles south of San Francisco, to Jenner, at the mouth of the Russian River, some 60 miles north of the Golden Gate.

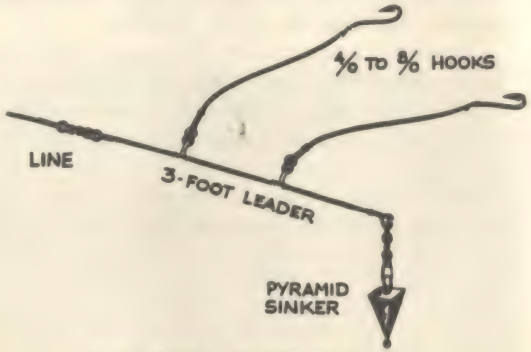
The best fishing, however, is confined almost to the San Francisco city limits. The broad ocean beach and Baker's Beach, which fronts on the Golden Gate, have been the scenes of tremendous runs lasting as long as several weeks.

The best in recent history occurred in 1948, when anglers fished elbow to elbow and came up with fantastic catches day after day. Twenty- and 30-pound bass became the rule rather than the exception.

Good striper fishing on the beaches normally is limited to three months from May through July. However, one angler of my acquaintance has made quite a habit of taking 'em from October 1st to mid-November on the Aquatic Park beach, just a long cast from San Francisco's famed Fisherman's Wharf.

Rockfish anglers do well from early spring to late summer. They stick to rocky inlets and the reefs, which are good spin casting distance from shore. In the winter, that is until February 28th, steelhead and silver salmon addicts take over. On occasion they get fair sport with wobblers by casting in the surf at the mouths of coastal streams. This technique pays off exceptionally well at the mouth of the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz, some 75 miles south of San Francisco.

Some surf fishermen double up on their quarry, going after stripers, halibut, surf perch, and whatever else may come their way. They use sardines or anchovy bait on the big 8/0 hook, and try clam necks on the smaller 2/0 hooks.



BAY AREA SURF RIG

SPINNING FROM DOCKS AND BRIDGES

By Ray Ovington

Ray Ovington, long recognized as an authority on all types of sport fishing, is the author of *Spinning in America*, published by The Stackpole Company.

TAKE A WALK ALONG ANY DOCK or fishing pier or bridge and you are likely to see the most heterogeneous collection of tackle that the grab bag of varied tastes can gather together. Here you'll see anglers with everything from the slight fly rod to the big surf stick—from the cane pole to the smart spinning rig. All are happy . . . all catch fish, to varying degrees—due to luck, proper terminal tackle, and fishing know-how. Here the tackle rarely is the factor in enticing the fish, especially if getting the bait to the fish is simply a matter of dropping it overboard. Anything goes for this type of fishing.

While I would never go out and buy a spinning rig for bait dunking from a bridge or pier, a spinning rig in my possession would be my choice in most cases, provided it was made up of a heavy enough rod and reel to kill the fish quickly and derrick it up a distance of thirty to fifty feet to the railing. Naturally, ultra-light tackle is not for this. One needs a stout rod tip, relatively heavy line, and a reel that will stand up under the merciless flailings of a fish that must be killed before it can reach the sharp barnacles of the pilings or abutments. This type of angling requires little or no casting, but rather a flinging of the bait, bobber,

and lead a sufficient way uptide and away from the snags. Use a fairly short, stiff rod for the purpose—and heavy line. If you are equipped with a regulation fresh-water reel and are after the smaller species, 10-pound monofilament is about as light as is practicable. It won't cast well, but after all, casting is a minor detail here. If you have either a medium weight or large size salt-water spinning reel, the heavier braided line is good, although I have always preferred monofilament for all types of spinning, when I can get my hands on supple enough stock. Terminal tackle is best determined by the type of water to be fished and the species of fish found there. Make it a point to ask the man from whom you buy your bait for the accepted rig, rather than make your own choice arbitrarily, if you would catch fish right off the bat.

Spincasting from a bridge, dock, or pier is another story. Here you must have tackle which will kill the fish fast, hoist it up, and at the same time have the power and balance for long distance casting where accuracy is a must. This requires balanced heavy tackle, and this business of ultra-light tips, reels, and lines is out. The practical choice here is a big salt-water reel, a fast tip chosen for the weight of the lures or sinkers to be used, and the accessory short butt for easier handling in cramped quarters and places where your conventional surf butt would be awkward and foolhardy. This same short butt, by the way, can be used most successfully in boat fishing, so the one tip in the lure weight class can be used under all three circumstances. Same goes for the reel—for the one-reel man, equipped with three spools filled with line in varied tests, virtually owns three reels in one.

In actual operation, the hardest adjustment to make is the drag. Where your fish has to be killed quickly in a small, snag-free area, the drag must be set tight and stand up under the terrific strain. The line must have a certain amount of stretch in it, and the tip must be one which will react to your every pressure quickly and cer-

tainly; otherwise the fish will gain his corner ledge, old nail-studded log, or barnacled concrete.

A case in point is striped bass fishing from bridges. These fish hang around the pilings at night, waiting for the bait to stray from their positions near the light. A hooked bass will head straight for the snags, and it is up to you to pressure him and keep his head up until he flails himself to death. Same goes for the snook and tarpon of the southern waters. It is a neat trick if you can do it, and the spin-fisherman, to perform well at all, must have tackle that is built to take it in that first clinch and all through the round, and then be able to act as a derrick in the next minute.

Small, gamey fish, such as snapper blues, sea trout, and the like, can be taken on conventional fresh-water tackle, though a line of heavier test than that usually employed for boat or beach fishing should be used, mainly to hoist the fish up quickly before it tears the hook out.

Down in Florida, spinning has become popular with the bridge fishermen—and for all types of fishing, for that matter.

Where you would never see a spinning rig a few years ago, many of them are seen now—proof enough that the good old spinning rig is tops for this kind of angling when the proper tackle is matched to the job at hand. The spincaster has the edge over most of the others, for he can cast farther, has no backlash worries, has more fun with his fish, and needs but one rod and reel to do the many jobs required in the varied field of Florida angling.

But, as in all types of fishing, the best is the cheapest in the long run. Any one rig that is going to have to perform on all fronts must be built to take it—good solid ferrules . . . a tight reelseat . . . hard, smooth guides . . . the best line—these are just a few of the "musts" on the list. Don't send a boy to do a man's job. Don't expect that an old slob will do well either. To have fun and catch fish, proper tackle gets 'em in the long run—and in the short run, too!

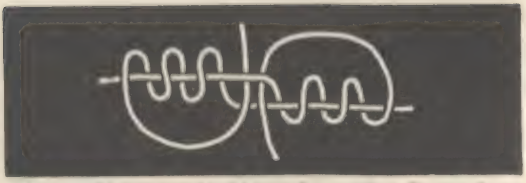
SOME USEFUL KNOTS FOR THE SALT-WATER SPIN FISHERMAN

USING A VERY HEAVY LINE, where the margin of safety was great, fishermen's knots were not too important. However, the spin fisherman uses light lines and must make certain that these lines retain as much of their original strength as possible. For this reason it is recommended that you study and practice the knots shown here until you have learned them thoroughly.

In making knots in monofilament line, remember that a smooth, even tension is much more desirable that a sudden jerk in drawing a knot tight.

BARREL KNOT

The barrel knot is used to join two lines of approximately the same diameter. This knot gives a straight pull in both directions, and is the strongest joining knot of its kind. The ends of the line may be

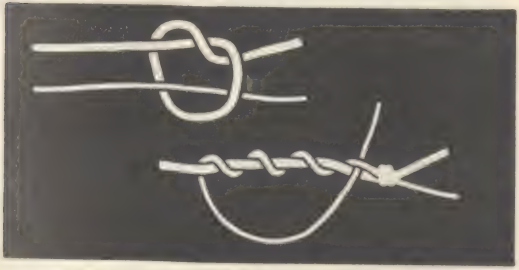


trimmed very closely when the knot has been pulled tight, giving a streamlined knot that will pass freely through the guides.

SHOCKER KNOT

The salt-water spin fisherman often uses 10-, 12-, or 14-pound test monofilament line. Casting heavy metal jigs and large plugs, this line takes severe punishment during each cast. The rod is brought back with tremendous power and then driven forward. That part of the line that is in the guides during the cast comes in for a lot of extra wear. To minimize the effect of this extra wear, it is desirable to tie onto the end of your regular line a length of heavier line to take up that strain. This "shocker" is a length of heavier test monofilament long enough to reach from the lure, through the guides, to the reel, and a few turns or

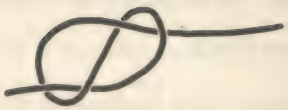
the reel spool. The shocker knot was developed as a satisfactory way to join these two different-size monofilament lines.



That simple overhand knot in the heavier line, tied around a straight length of the lighter line, is first drawn tight with a pair of pliers. This assures a firm knot in the heavier line. The remainder of the knot is the old familiar clinch knot.

STOPPER OR FIGURE 8 KNOT

This knot is frequently used at the extreme end of a line, after another knot has been tied. Its purpose here is to create a bump in the line to prevent the other knot from slipping out.



As an alternative to this knot, many spin fishermen singe the end of the line with a lighted cigarette. The heat from the cigarette melts the end of the line into a small ball, which has the same effect as a knot in the end of the line.

RUNNING LOOP

This is a glorified slip-knot, and is used to attach line to reel. Create the knot in the end of your line *before* putting the line on the spool. Make the loop large enough to



permit throwing two or three turns around the arbor of the reel spool, then pull it up tight. Make certain that the bail is in the casting position.

THE SURF FISHERMAN. . . a breed apart!

By Dick Wolff

AN ODD FELLOW, the surfcaster. He roams the lonely beaches at all hours, seeking the elusive *roccus saxatilis* and *pomatomus saltatrix* (stripers and bluefish to you). From the time the first dogwood bursts forth in color until the bitter cold nights of late fall, you will see this lonely shadow working the beaches and jetties. The disease of surfcasting defies explanation, yet every fisherman is susceptible. And once bitten by the bug, neither family nor position can restrain the surfcaster when *". . . the bass are in!"*

Generally, the surf fisherman wears rubber boots, or, weather permitting, a bathing suit. He wades out into the surf as far as he can, and casts his lure or bait out into the ocean as far as possible. Distance is sometimes very important; hence it is common to see rods with 8-foot tip and 30-inch spring butt. Straining for those few feet of extra distance, backlashes are frequent. They are the bane of the surf-caster, because when they occur that 4-ounce lure is usually travelling at considerable speed. *Snap!* A broken line and another lost lure.

With the introduction of heavier spinning reels, with greater line capacity and friction drags capable of proper adjustment for surf fishing conditions, a new era has opened up for the surfcaster.

No backlashes! Now the angler can reach out for those few extra feet, serenely confident that he will not snap off his lure. What a blessing for night fishing particularly. Of course, surf spinning tackle should be designed for the job it is meant to do. The reel should be as corrosion-resistant as possible. There is no such thing as a corrosion-*proof* salt-water reel. They all must receive a certain amount of care. Your Salt-Water MITCHELL has been made as



nearly corrosion-proof as possible.

The surf spinning rod can be anywhere from 11 feet long down to the short 7-foot rods. Generally, it is desirable to get away from the heavy "telegraph poles." The 8-foot, two-handed spinning rod seems to enjoy the greatest popularity. With it you can get very good distance with minimum effort. You can cast a wide variety of block tin jigs and bass plugs.

Incidentally, when a surfcaster using a revolving spool reel casts a block tin jig he finds that the lure travels through the air at an incredible speed. Then when he changes to a wooden plug, with considerable wind resistance, the speed of the lure through the air is greatly reduced. Failure to adapt "thumbing" technique to these different speeds—*backlash!* With the spinning outfit, the change in flight characteristics of various lures has no effect at all on the reel. As long as the lure is going somewhere, line goes out. When the lure stops, so does the line—smoothly and completely independent of the angler's action.

Many anglers seem to feel that spinning should be restricted to light tackle fishing. This is not so. I have converted one of my conventional surf rods simply by replacing the guides with a set of surf spinning guides. Then, using my Salt-Water MITCHELL and 17-pound test *Platyl* (the reel holds 250 yards of this), I started casting regular 4-ounce block tin jigs. The tide was running fast, and dire were the predictions "when you tie into a bass." I did tie into bass . . . and I did land them just as easily as anyone with any kind of rod and reel. I do not feel that this heavy tackle is neces-

sary—nor is it nearly so much fun as light spinning tackle. My favorite rig is the 8-foot MITCHELL *Companion* Light Action rod and 10-pound *Platyl* line. I've chalked up many a good score—both stripers and blues.

Bluefish have extremely sharp teeth, and they can readily bite through a line—monofilament or braided. Use a short wire leader—one about a foot long. This short leader permits casting smoothly, as described in this manual. If you prefer the customary 3-foot leader your casting technique will have to be modified. No back cast now. Hang the rod and lure behind you, then put lots of muscle into the cast, and let 'er rip!



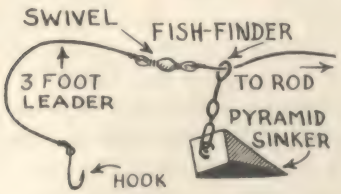
Few of those starry-eyed surf fishermen will reveal the kind of bait they are using. Some even throw off the drag so that their rod will not bend when another fisherman comes by. Yes, theirs is a solitary pastime. They just don't want their contemporaries to know they're catching fish.

No, they won't tell what kind of bait they are using. But there's one fact they can't hide. Season after season, more and more of them are turning to spinning for more fun, more thrills, and more satisfaction in the surf.



SOME SALT-WATER SPINNING SUGGESTIONS

BOTTOM FISHING IN THE SURF An ordinary 2-ounce pyramid sinker makes an excellent "fish-finder" rig. Here's how it's rigged.

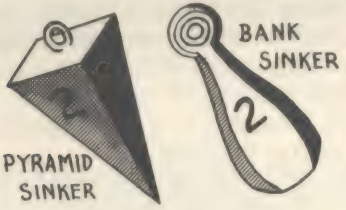


Attach live bait to the hook and cast! Let the sinker sink to the bottom. Then sit back and relax. Set a very light drag, or, better yet, have the pick-up bail in "cast" position, holding line on spool with slight pressure from index finger on front rim of spool. Then when the fish nibbles at the bait, he will be able to take out line. You'll be able to set the hook *after* the fish has a good mouthful of bait.

SETTING THE HOOK Setting the hook with a spinning rig is no more difficult than with heavier rigs. It *is* different, and here's why. Every part of the tackle is lighter. The rod certainly has more "give", and the line more stretch. The answer is to make certain that hook barbs are sharp. Also, in sharpening the barbs it might be well to alter their shape, to make penetration easier. The sketch at the left shows the shape of the barb of a hook as it comes from the factory. The sketch at the right shows that same barb as modified.



TYPES OF SINKERS A bank sinker will will tend to snag less on rocky bottoms than will a pyramid sinker. However, the pyramid sinker will hold bottom better in mud or sand. Ed Neal's suggestion of using a *Bull Durham* sack (page 32) as a sinker under certain conditions is an excellent one. Try it.



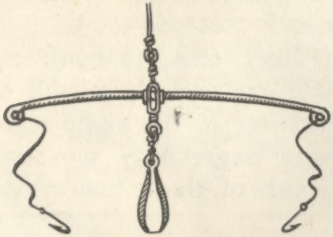
"PLAYING" A FISH The expression "playing a fish" means just what it says. A rod, reel, and line should not be used as a crane or derrick, to hoist the fish by sheer strength. If you will re-read page 30 you will understand why this is so. Once a fish is on, the manual effort involved in bringing him to gaff or net is negligible. Skill does play an important part, though. With the anti-reverse *"On"*, so the handle cannot turn backward, apply tension on the rod until it is about vertical. Then bring the rod tip down almost to horizontal, at the same time reeling in rapidly, taking up the few feet of line thus gained. It is not too hard to develop the knack of reeling and of lowering the rod tip in perfect rhythm. Absolutely no strain is added to the line, and none applied to the reel.

Incidentally, to continue to turn the reel handle, while the fish is taking out line against the tension of the drag, introduces unnecessary twists into the line, and should be avoided.

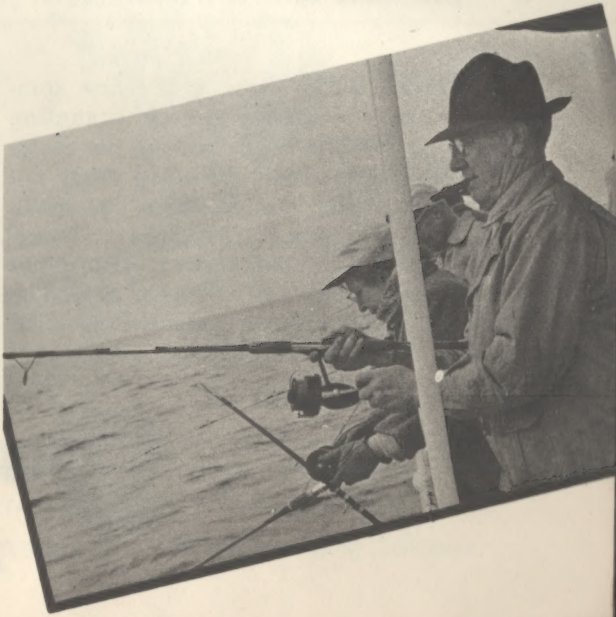
PARTY BOATS There was a time when the angler with the spinning rig was personna non grata on party boats. How things have changed!

And the spinning rig has certain advantages even in this kind of fishing. Flounder

fishing, for instance, with the standard spreader rig, as shown here:



Swing the spreader rig over the side, pick up the line in regular *"Cast"* position, with pick-up bail or manual out of the way. Release line, and the rig drops to the bottom in no time at all. Get ready to retrieve by turning the handle, and you're ready for action. Even here, no chance of a backlash, as can happen if you're careless with a revolving spool reel. In colder weather, remember that monofilament line picks up very little water. Also, it is not necessary to handle the line—to level-wind it on the retrieve; so your hands can be kept dry. Because monofilament line has less drag in the water it is possible to use lighter sinkers and still be sure of reaching bottom. This advantage becomes obvious in a very strong current, where other lines are out at an angle from the boat while the angler with the spinning rig is fishing "straight down."



NOW . . . meet the rest of the MITCHELL reel family

WE ARE PROUD of the Salt-Water MITCHELL Reel, and are confident that you will be equally proud to own it. We are equally proud of the two other reels made by the same manufacturer to the same rigid specifications. They are shown on the opposite page. May we send you more complete information on either or both of these fine reels?

MITCHELL REEL. Among the first spinning reels to reach the American angling scene, the MITCHELL has become the standard by which other spinning reels are judged. It is the most versatile reel available. Left- and right-hand models . . . "level-wind" and "cross-wind" gears . . . two spools with each reel—each of different capacity—these are a few of the features that make the MITCHELL such a standout.

MITCHELL CAP REEL. Built to the same exacting standards that have made the name *"Mitchell"* pre-eminent in spinning tackle. Dollar for dollar, we believe the MITCHELL CAP is the *most* reel for the money today. In its 8½ ounces it offers *Planamatic* gears, ample line capacity, construction details expected only in the most expensive spinning reels, machined bevel gears, for instance, and wear-proof line guide.

garcia





A POSTAL CARD will bring you full particulars on these two fine reels, as well as a copy of our complete catalog of superlative spinning tackle. Look that catalog over. You'll see why we have become known as *"the dependable source for dependable spinning tackle."*

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Spinning is a fascinating sport!

. . . and we are constantly striving to present the *best* in fine spinning tackle—from sources that really *know* the art of spinning.

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Booklet Designed and Produced by Dan Ryan

Printed in France.